

November 2012



Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

I.B.P. 2012 Hall of Fame



Dick Florea

The Richard M. Fairbanks Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held October 11, 2012 at the Marriott in Indianapolis. Two Hundred and sixty five guests attended the event to honor this years inductees. Pioneer President Dick Florea hosted the event which was co-sponsored by the IBA and seven corporate sponsors.



2012 HONOREES



Mark Allen

started his TV career in 1967 with 41 years in Terre Haute. His career has included positions in upper management with WTWO-TV and WTHI-TV. He was syndicated as "Mark Allen" on 38 stations for three years, did 18 years hosting the Jerry Lewis Telethon and the United Cerebral Palsy fund efforts. In the mid-80's he was named one of the Top 100 journalists in the country by the Washington Journalism Review.



Reid Duffy

established himself as a 'unique' personality in Central Indiana TV for 30 years. Reid spent 24 years with WRTV and 3 years with WNDY-TV. His "Duffy's World" human interest stories earned him Associated Press Awards for "Best Feature Story". Reid has authored three books and continues contributing humorous material to various print publications Reid established himself as a Central Indiana personality in TV for 30 years. He spent 24 years with WRTV and 3 years with WNDY-TV. His "Duffy's World" human interest stories earned him Associated Press Awards for "Best Feature Story".



Allen Jeffries

was a prominent news broadcaster in the 1940's through the 1960's. He was a prize winning editorial writer for WRTV-TV in the 70's. Jeffries broadcast news in Lafayette, WOWO in Ft. Wayne, WBAT in Marion, WKMO in Kokomo, and WCOL in Columbus as well as other stations in Michigan. He is best known for his work for WISH-TV and WIRE radio in Indy during the 1950's. He was inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame in 1971 and died in 1980.

Jim Kartes



started his career as a news cameraman at WCCO-TV in Minneapolis. He then joined WISH-TV in 1961. Jim's ability to get key stories earned him the nickname "Lucky Lens". Jim left WISH in 1966 to freelance and through 1974 covered the Democratic National Convention riots and traveled the world with Walter Cronkite including Nixon's visit to China. He earned six TV Emmys for his documentary and "CBS 60 Minutes" work. He started his own production company in Indy with Time magazine referring to Jim as the "Henry Ford of the home video business..." for his work with home video publishing. He then became involved with Scripps Howard and Time Warner Cable.

2012 Hall of Fame continued



David Keister

personally built WCBK-AM/FM in Martinsville, Indiana and put the stations on the air in 1967. In his 41 years at the 'helm' Dave has put his stamp on 10 different Indiana communities while solely owning 26 different AM and FM signals in the state. Mid America Radio held 19 radio stations in Indiana until 2009 when the seven stations in Kokomo and Marion were sold.



Janet Langhart Cohen

joined WISH-TV as the first African-American to host her own daily show in Indy doing the "Indy Today" program. She won the CASPER award her first year on the show for her tough questioning of guests. Her success led her to host a similar show in Boston where she stayed for just over 4 years. In 1996 she married U.S. Senator William S. Cohen and became known as the "First Lady of the Pentagon" when William became the Secretary of Defense. She initiated several programs within the Pentagon including her own series of interviews on Pentagon TV. She has authored a memoir and written a play, "Anne and Emmett", which imagines a conversation between two teens: Nazi victim Anne Frank and Jim Crow victim Emmett Till.



Joe Pate

was sports director for WSBT-TV/radio in South Bend from 1962-73 and then became Director of Sports Development and Medical Director at Cranfill Advertising in Indy. He was a main player in developing TV and radio broadcasts for Purdue and I.U. basketball and football. He was the voice of Purdue basketball and football for 18 years on a statewide network. Joe was responsible for establishing the sports networks for the IHSAA beginning in 1977 and managed these networks through 1997. He has also been inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.



Glenn Webber

spent 20 years at WRTV-TV as a newscaster/announcer. He teamed with Joe Pickett on WFBM radio (owned by WRTV-TV) to start the "Pickett-Webber Thing" which soon became the great morning drive team in Indy radio. They stayed atop the ratings for nearly 20 years. Webber then became the announcer for the Indiana State Police for a number of years before joining Emmis Broadcasting when they launched WENS-FM in 1981. Glenn was part of the original staff anchoring news updates during morning drive. Glenn died in 2011 at age 90.

IBA Lifetime Achievement Award



Scott Blumenthal

was honored with the 2012 Indiana Broadcasters Association Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes individuals for especially meritorious service, contributions to or achievements in the field of Indiana broadcasting over the course of a career.

He launched his career in 1970, working in virtually every department at WTWO-TV in Terre Haute and WRTV-TV in Indianapolis before partnering to develop an advertising agency. In 1983, Mr. Blumenthal became the Local Sales Manager for WISH-TV (Lin Media) in Indianapolis, and in 1994, became President and General Manager of WOOD-TV and WOTV-TV (Lin Media), in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He returned to WISH-TV as President and General Manager in 1999 before being named Regional Vice President for LIN Media in 2002. In 2005, Mr. Blumenthal was promoted to Vice President, Television and then a year later, was promoted again to his current title of Executive Vice President, Television.

WOWO's Bob Chase Wins Coveted Award

Longtime Komets broadcaster Bob Chase, poised to call his 60th consecutive season on WOWO, was honored with the Lester Patrick Trophy during the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame induction celebration in Dallas on Oct. 15, 2012.

The award is presented annually for outstanding service to hockey in the United States and has been given to people such as Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Gordie Howe, Scott Bowman and John Davidson.



Bob Chase

"It's kind of hard to explain how I feel," Chase said.

"I never saw this coming at all. It meant a lot when I learned about it. I got a call from NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, and he said, 'I want to be the first to congratulate you.'

"I was on the highway, about an hour outside of Huntsville, Ala., and I'm surrounded by semis. And I had nowhere to go, no place to stop. My wife, Murph, looked at me and there were tears streaming down my face, and she thought someone must have died."

Chase, born in Negaunee, Mich., was raised in Marquette, Mich. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he began his radio career as a student at Northern Michigan. He has been honored by the school with its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Chase was hired at WOWO in 1953 and has called all of the Komets' seasons except their first. He retired as WOWO's sports director in 2009 but has remained with the Komets, covering their championship last season in the CHL.

Chase, 86, whose real last name is Wallenstein, has broadcast all nine of the Komets' playoff championships, as well as their 12 regular-season titles. His broadcasts are also on 92.3 FM and on the Web through www.komets.com.

He has asked the Hockey Hall of Fame to put both Chase and Wallenstein on his plaque, so that his parents are properly honored for supporting him as he pursued his dreams.

He has influenced many other broadcasters, including current NBC hockey broadcaster Mike Emrick, whom he mentored while Emrick was in college. Emrick, an Indiana native who received the Lester Patrick Trophy in 2004, helped submit Chase's nomination.

Chase also interviewed myriad celebrities, such as Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley, and he broadcast the famed 1954 state basketball championship won by Milan High School.

Lloyd Wright Re-elected to PBS Board

Pioneer member and WFYI President and CEO of WFYI, Lloyd Wright, has been



Re-Elected to the PBS Board of Directors, for a three-year term.

The appointment marks

Wright's fourth term of service on PBS' national governing board. From 1999 to 2004, he completed two subsequent terms, serving on the Member Services Committee; the task force responsible for establishing the PBS Foundation; and as vice chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

Wright said, "PBS remains one of the most trusted institutions in America. Collectively, PBS and our nation's 348 noncommercial public television stations are enriching the lives of those we serve. And with an even greater commitment to community engagement, we can share our multiple public media assets with local partners to find solutions to community problems while enhancing our regional presence and amplifying the diverse voices of our communities."

More recently, Wright served as a member of the PBS Executive Committee; chair of the board of National Datacast, Inc. (a PBS subsidiary); and vice chair of the Interconnection Committee and the Station Services Committee.

The PBS Board of Directors is responsible for governing and setting policy for PBS. In total, the PBS Board comprises 27 members; 14 Professional Members; 12 General Directors; and the PBS President. All PBS members serve three-year terms, without pay.

Al Primo, the News Director for KYW-TV in Philadelphia had a newscast that was ranked second in the local ratings but believed their local news operation was "a mess".



Vince Leonard

It was 1965 and in desperation he developed the idea of having television news reporters present their own reports on camera directly to the audience viewing at home. However, the anchors at KYW who were Tom Snyder and Vince Leonard* were against Primo's idea. He and Snyder said, "We're not going to be news jockeys!" Eventually, Primo convinced them that the idea would be a better information format because of the reporter sitting next to the anchor with the "eye on the scene" news package that elevated the importance and added credibility to a particular story. The reporter could start by saying, "I was there....".

With the concession of the anchors he implemented the idea and changed the name of their local program to "Eyewitness News". It worked! In fact it worked so well that after only three years Primo was asked to bring the concept to WABC News, Channel 7, in New York which in 1968 was the lowest rated newscast in the city.

He walked into a nightmare. The WABC-TV news operation was a complete mess. The producer, director and the writers would hold a poker game every afternoon at 3:00PM and the show would supposedly come together by magic. The format changed every night. One evening it would be headlines and no music and then the other way around. WABC-TV had over ten news directors in a five year period and Primo's new job was to convince the show's "names" to submerge their egos and go for a "team" effort. So Primo designed an upgraded version of his "Eyewitness News" for WABC-TV. He did the whole shot - set, talent, "Cool Hand Luke" music, and graphics - in about 8 weeks. On November 17th, 1968, "Channel 7 Eyewitness News" went on the air in the New York market. The other stations ho-hummed the new arrival because they were already the most watched among New Yorkers. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Primo's concept was totally different than the one he did for Philadelphia. He hired newcomer ABC News correspondent and former KGO-TV anchor and News Director Roger Grimsby as his star anchor and the talent was referred to Primo as his "Eyewitness News Team" - a title still used by WABC-TV today. The original "Eyewitness News Team" was Tom Dunn, Melba Tolliver, Howard Cosell, Tex Antione, Rona Barret, John Schubeck, Milton Lewis, Dell Wade, Bob Miller, Bill Aylward*, Bob Lape, Gil Noble, and John Bartholomew Tucker. Another reporter, Doug Johnson, was added in 1969. The "team" wore blue blazers emblazoned with a gold "Circle 7" logo on the left breast pocket and every one of the talent had a different image, much like a cast of characters. Milton Lewis' role was an Investigate Reporter - tough but fair. Rona Barret was an Entertainment Reporter - had all the gossip on the stars in the movie industry. It only took a year for Primo to get the station to the top of the ratings. The format was soon adopted by stations all across the country.



Bill Aylward

* Vince Leonard was the first newscaster for WISH TV in Indianapolis when the station went on the air in 1954 before moving to Philadelphia. He later moved to KPNX TV in Phoenix, Arizona.

* Bill Aylward Was also a News anchor for WANE-TV in Fort Wayne and WISH TV in Indianapolis.

News Anchors Quit!

Colleagues and viewers were shocked when co-news anchors Cindy Michaels and Tony Consiglio announced their resignations "live", on the air. Consiglio made the announcement saying, "Some recent developments have come to our attention, and departing together is the best alternative we can take." Off camera, the co-anchors elaborated, citing alleged disrespect from superiors and pressure to do biased journalism. "I just wanted to know that I was doing the best job I could and was being honest and ethical as a journalist, and I thought there were times when I wasn't able to do that," said Consiglio, who was also the show's executive producer.

Michaels, also the station's news director, criticized upper management, with whom she had clear differences.

"It's a culmination of ongoing occurrences that took place the last several years and basically involved upper management practices that we both strongly disagreed with. It's a little complicated," but we were expected to do somewhat unbalanced news, politically, in general."

Neither anchor specified what political stances the management allegedly wanted them to espouse. The company's vice president and general manager, Mike Palmer, was not surprised by their announcement. "That was unfortunate, but not unexpected." Palmer dismissed that criticism, saying that news production is not upper management's role. Upper management is not involved in the daily production of the news.

IBA President Linda Compton Retires

The Indiana Broadcasters Association has announced the retirement of longtime President Linda Compton. Linda has managed the IBA since 1991 while serving as President and CEO.



Linda and Gwen

In 1997 Linda formed a partnership with Gwen Piening named Compiro, Inc., which manages the Indiana Broadcasters Association. Under Linda's

management the association has grown from little net worth to \$1,000,000.00 in assets. Linda commented, "The IBA experience has been wonderful personally and professionally and I will certainly miss the broadcast personalities as I pursue other challenges".

With Compton's retirement, Piening and the new IBA President Dr. Joe Misiewicz will form a management partnership to oversee IBA operations. The partnership will be known as "The Achievement Group."

Death Notices:



Ron Harmeyer

Ronald L. Harmeyer 68, of Leo, Indiana passed away September 28, 2012 at Luthern Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Born September 18, 1944 in Fort Wayne.

He was Chief Photographer at WANE TV where he worked for forty eight years. He dedicated his life and career to TV news in the city of Ft. Wayne. He hustled every day in the field and was a valuable source for contacts and information around northeast Indiana. He considered his job to be his hobby and said "I guess I never had a real job, but I've had a great career. He attended St. Jude gradeschool and graduated from Central Catholic Highschool. Surviving are his wife Kathy Harmeyer, two children, Joel Harmeyer and Jenna Sheard.



Mike Fry

Mike L. Fry 51, a clown known to tens-of-thousands of children as Happy the Hobo passed away November 4, 2012 in Indianapolis.

Fry was the host of Happy's Place on WFFT in Fort Wayne from 1982 to 1990. The children's show aired in over 200 cities across the U.S.

during Fry's time with the program. Fry left the show in 1990 to run his own fortune cookie business, Fancy Fortune Cookies .Happy's Place was filmed in front of a live audience filled with children at the WFFT studios in Fort Wayne. The program aired through the 80's up until 1997.

Steve Shine, a Fort Wayne attorney who worked at WFFT in the news department said Fry's love for children was apparent. "I used to like to stand next to him, just to get some of the good will and the aura that would exude from his presence at any public appearance," he said.

Fry started his cookie business in 1988 and used his clown experience to take the company to further success, which has been in business for 24 years.



Happy the Hobo

On the About Us page of the Fancy Fortune Cookies site , Fry writes in detail about his experience going from a performer to a business owner. In it he writes about how his " Willy Wonka fantasy came true:"

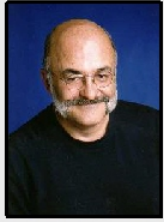
Mike explained his success by saying, " I'm a fortune cookie fanatic and flavoring pioneer, and that one idea forever changed my life. As it turned out, I did turn the fortune cookie business upside down. You see, as a former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey clown, I understood the value of serving up fun to my customers. And at that time I had my own nationally syndicated children's TV show so I also knew how well people respond to surprises and vivid colors. With that background, I guess I was destined to invent colored, flavored fortune cookies."

Fry was born in Watseka, Illinois in 1961 but grew up in Huntington County.

He is survived by his wife, Erin, and daughter, Ella.

Death Notices Continued:

“Big John” Gillis died Friday at his Indianapolis home. He was 64. A longtime WIBC-AM traffic reporter Gillis, retired from his post at the Indianapolis radio station in



2007, worked nearly three decades for WIBC, where he became the dean of local traffic reporters during his 4 a.m. to noon slot. Gillis had suffered from breathing problems in recent weeks and died at his Broad Ripple home.

Big John Gillis Dave “The King” Wilson, a former longtime afternoon personality at WIBC and a fixture on WFBQ-FM’s (94.7) “Bob & Tom Show,” recalled that Gillis always had a smile, He was always in a good mood. No matter what life threw at him he soldiered on. He was just so kind-hearted, and always quick with a joke. “He was a gentle soul.”

Gillis came from a legion of radio reporters and comedians whose on-air presence spanned a couple generations and reached celebrity status, names including Wilson, Jerry Baker and Jeff Pigeon, among others, said former WIBC weekend show host John Strauss.

“Big John was one of the best-known people in Indianapolis radio, really well-loved in the community,” said Strauss, a former Indianapolis Star columnist and Gillis colleague who now teaches at Ball State University. “Big John was fun, generous and always had a kind word.”

In a statement from Emmis Chairman and CEO Jeff Smulyan: said, “WIBC and the entire Emmis family are saddened by the passing of Big John Gillis. John was an icon in Central Indiana whose captivating personality touched generations of listeners in our community. John will be missed by all of us.

Gillis grew up in the northeastern Indiana town of Howe. He was editor of his high school newspaper and got his first radio job at WSTR-AM in nearby Sturgis, Mich., at age 16, reporting on school news. In 1968, he joined WNAP-FM, the sister station at the time to WIBC, after attending Indiana University. He worked at stations in Boston and Philadelphia before returning to WIBC in 1980 as a traffic reporter.

At the time of his retirement, Gillis estimated that he had logged more than 20,000 hours in the air, reporting on traffic from helicopters, small airplanes and the occasional blimp or hot-air balloon.

Jack L. Kaufman, 72, of Hibbing, Minnesota died Monday, Aug. 20, 2012, at Guardian Angels Health Care Center in Hibbing. He was born Sept. 17, 1939, in Kokomo, Ind., and was raised by his aunt and uncle, Elizabeth and Earl Musgrave.

Jack graduated from Kokomo High School and then served in the U.S. Navy. While in the Navy, Jack met Ramona Heineman, and they were married on Jan. 9, 1960, in Wisconsin. Upon his honorable discharge, Jack worked for the ABC Television affiliate in Indianapolis, eventually serving as chief cameraman. He received the Indiana News Photographers Association, Spot-News, Team-filming first place award in 1969 for the coverage of the gas station explosion across from the State Fair Grounds.

Later, he served as aide-de-camp to Governor-elect Otis Bowen during his campaign in Indiana. Eventually, Jack and Ramona settled in Hibbing, where he worked at Eveleth Taconite until an injury forced his retirement in 1980. He was an avid fisherman and builder of model airplanes.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ramona, on July 7, 2006.

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